

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 262402

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: EVENING WIRE/TV REPORT, NOVEMBER 27, 1974

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 6

TV:

1. ABC NEWS (12 MINUTES INTO SHOW) - HOWARD K. SMITH:
"SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN ARE
STILL IN PEKING FOR A COMBINATION OF DIPLOMATIC TALKS AND
EXOTIC SIGHTSEEING."

KAPLOW (WITH APPROPRIATE FILM CLIPS): "FOR JUST ABOUT ALL
VISITORS, IT'S ONE OF THE PREMIER ATTRACTIONS. FOR THE
KISSINGERS, TOO, A VISIT TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY IN PEKING.
MRS. KISSINGER, 15-YEAR OLD ELIZABETH, 13-YEAR OLD DAVID.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD BEEN THERE BEFORE, AND BESIDES,
HE HAD OTHER BUSINESS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 262402

"AFTER HALF AN HOUR, HE DEPARTED FOR THE GREAT HALL OF

THE PEOPLE, FOR THE FIRST OF HIS FORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE CHINESE OFFICIALS. ACROSS THE TABLE, THE LEADER OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION, TENG HSIAO-P'ING, REPLACING THE AILING CHOU EN-LAI. NEXT TO KISSINGER, PRESIDENT FORD'S CHIEF OF STAFF, DONALD RUMSFELD, WHO SORT OF CAME ALONG AT THE LAST MINUTE AND WHOSE ROLE HERE IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. COULD IT BE MORE THAN JUST FAMILIARIZING HIMSELF WITH THIS IMPORTANT FACET OF FOREIGN POLICY? .

"THE DAY-ENDING FESTIVITIES AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE: MUSIC AND DANCE OF CHINA. AND AN ADAPTATION OR TWO OF AN OLD AMERICAN FAVORITE: "HOME ON THE RANGE," IN A MOST DISTINCTIVE ARRANGEMENT.

"THIS IS KISSINGER'S 7TH VISIT TO CHINA, HIS FIRST SINCE PRESIDENT NIXON RESIGNED. THE CHINESE LIKED NIXON, AND CREDIT HIM WITH HELPING TO START ALL THIS. BUT THE CHINESE ARE FLEXIBLE, TOO; AND AS LONG AS THEY WANT TRADE AND AS LONG AS THEY WORRY ABOUT THE RUSSIANS -- IN OTHER WORDS, AS LONG AS IT'S IN THEIR INTEREST -- THEY'LL DEAL WITH US."

2. NBC NEWS (16 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM) -- CHANCELLOR:
"SECRETARY KISSINGER MET WITH CHINESE LEADERS IN PEKING TODAY FOR THE THIRD DAY OF THEIR MEETINGS. THOSE MEETINGS ARE SECRET, BUT THERE WAS A SIGN THAT THEY'RE GOING WELL: THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED TWO FRONT-PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF DR. KISSINGER TODAY."

VALERIANI (WITH FILM SHOTS OF FORBIDDEN CITY, GREAT HALL, OPERA, ETC.): "BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS, KISSINGER WENT SIGHTSEEING WITH HIS WIFE, NANCY, AND HIS TWO CHILDREN, ELIZABETH, 15, AND DAVID, 13. AS HE HAS DONE ON EACH OF HIS SIX PREVIOUS VISITS HERE, HE TOURED A DIFFERENT PART OF THE SO-CALLED FORBIDDEN CITY, A HUGE COMPLEX OF PALACES, GARDENS AND MUSEUMS BUILT DURING THE MING AND CHING DYNASTIES BEGINNING IN THE 15TH CENTURY.

"KISSINGER WENT TO THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE FOR HIS FIRST MEETING OF SUBSTANCE WITH TOP CHINESE OFFICIALS. THE CHINESE SIDE WAS LED BY VICE-PREMIER TENG HSIAO-P'ING,
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PAGE 03 STATE 262402

WHOM WESTERN DIPLOMATS REGARD AS THE HEIR-APPARENT TO PRIME MINISTER CHOU EN-LAI. CHOU IS STILL HOSPITALIZED. SEATED NEXT TO KISSINGER WAS THE WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF, DONALD RUMSFELD. KISSINGER INSISTED LATER THAT RUMSFELD WAS HERE BECAUSE OF A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT DECISION TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH CHINA AND NOT FOR ANY, MORE CALCULATED, REASON. AMERICAN OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY, BUT THEY RESERVED COMMENT

ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS.

"AFTER LISTENING TO REVOLUTIONARY CHINESE DIALOGUE ALL DAY, KISSINGER SAW AND HEARD REVOLUTIONARY CHINESE SONG AND DANCE AT NIGHT, IN THE GREAT HALL DURING WHAT THE CHINESE TERMED A CULTURAL PERFORMANCE.

"ALL THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, AND IT'S ADMITTEDLY NOT MUCH, INDICATES THE TALKS ARE MOVING AHEAD AS EXPECTED. AND KISSINGER'S AIDES SAY HE HAS NOTED NO CHANGE IN THE CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES SINCE HIS LAST VISIT HERE, ONE YEAR AGO." . . .

3. CBS NEWS (13 MINUTES AFTER THE HOUR) -- CRONKITE:

"SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER CONTINUES TO MEET WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS IN PEKING. WHILE THE TALKS ARE DESCRIBED AS BEING VERY FRIENDLY, KISSINGER IS TROUBLED BY AN APPARENT ABSENCE OF CHINESE LEADERSHIP."

KALB (WITH FOOTAGE OF MEETINGS, SIGHTSEEING, OPERA): "THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE -- SYMBOL OF CHINESE COMMUNISM. KISSINGER ENJOYS THE POMP OF POWER: GUARDS WHO SNAP TO ATTENTION AT HIS VERY APPEARANCE. BUT KISSINGER DOES NOT ENJOY A VACUUM OF POWER. IN CHOU EN-LAI'S ABSENCE -- THE PREMIER'S HEALTH IS FAILING -- KISSINGER MUST DEAL WITH A DEPUTY PREMIER, TENG HSIAO-P'ING, A QUESTION-MARK IN THE SECRETARY'S BRIEFING BOOK. NO BIG DECISIONS CAN BE MADE, NO BREAKTHROUGHS SCORED UNTIL EITHER CHOU RECOVERS OR CHINA PRODUCES A NEW LEADERSHIP.

"TODAY, AS YESTERDAY, MEETINGS ALTERNATE BETWEEN THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE AND KISSINGER'S GUEST HOUSE. THE THEMES ALTERNATE, TOO, BETWEEN RUSSIA, WHICH CHINA TRADITIONALLY PERCEIVES AS A CHALLENGE, AND TAIWAN, WHICH CHINA UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 262402

FIGURES IS HERS. ON RUSSIA, KISSINGER DOESN'T TAKE SIDES, MERELY ASSERTS AMERICA'S HOPE OF BEING FRIENDLY WITH BOTH COMMUNIST GIANTS. ON TAIWAN, KISSINGER PLEADS FOR PATIENCE; LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE, HE SAYS. BUT CHINA IS IMPATIENT, AWARE THAT THE NATIONALIST CHINESE HAVE SET UP NEW CONSULATES IN THE U.S. AND THE U.S. HAS NOW SET UP A FACTORY FOR BUILDING JET FIGHTER PLANES IN TAIWAN. THERE IS NO RESOLUTION.

"SIGHTSEEING, FOR THE SECRETARY, IS A TOOL -- HE USES IT TO FLATTER NATIONAL EGOS. EVENINGS IN CHINA ARE FOR ENTERTAINMENT, REVOLUTIONARY STYLE. THE SECRETARY, WHO FELL ASLEEP DURING A SIMILAR PERFORMANCE LAST YEAR, STAYED AWAKE THIS YEAR.

"THERE HAD BEEN ODD RUMORS HERE, BEFORE KISSINGER'S ARRIVAL, THAT CHINA WAS COOLING TOWARD AMERICA, BY MAKING FRESH OVERTURES TOWARD RUSSIA. THOSE RUMORS DIED, HOWEVER, WHEN SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV REJECTED THE OVERTURES. THE EFFECT OF THAT REJECTION HAS BEEN TO STRENGTHEN KISSINGER'S HAND IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATION, TO SOLIDIFY HIS POLICY OF CHINESE-AMERICAN COOPERATION. THE SECRETARY THANKS BREZHNEV FOR HIS HELP."

WIRE NIGHTLEADS:

UPI STANDS WITH AM LEAD, ADDING HAK PLAN TO GIVE DINNER IN GREAT HALL THURSDAY NIGHT AND TRIP TO SOOCJOW ON FRIDAY FOR SIGHTSEEING.

AP NIGHTLEAD, SCHWEID, SAYS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEGUN ON CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS, UNDER HABIB. IN OTHER MEETINGS HAK AND CHINESE LEADERS ARE DISCUSSING TAIWAN, BUT MEETINGS HELD IN TOTAL SECRECY. SETTLEMENT ON CLAIMS ISSUE IS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT VISIT, EVEN IF NOTHING HAPPENS ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION, AND WOULD ACCELERATE THE IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-CHINESE RELATIONS.

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